

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to the first Official Action.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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DDB:jjw

MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 and ending on page 1, line 9 with the following:

Cross reference is made to U.S. Serial No.
60/236,953 09/964,011, filed on even date herewith, entitled
"VIRTUAL TREE-BASED NETLIST MODEL AND METHOD OF DELAY ESTIMATION
FOR AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGN," filed on September 29, 2000."